AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A coupling device for restraining belts, particularly for children's safety seats for motor-vehicles, comprising

a body ~~adapted to be connected~~ for connecting to at least one belt branch, and

a pair of tongue elements, each ~~adapted to be connected~~ for connecting to a respective belt branch, wherein each tongue element includes an attachment portion for connection with the respective belt branch and a stem portion arranged to be received and locked in the body, said stem portion defining a catch tooth for locking the tongue element in the body wherein each tongue element includes a metal insert wholly covered by a plastic or rubber housing or coating~~.~~, said metal insert containing a first part extending into the attachment portion and a second part extending into the stem portion of the tongue element.

2. (Previously Presented) A coupling device according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic or rubber coating or housing of each tongue element is overmolded over the metal insert.

3. (Currently Amended) The coupling device according to Claim 1, wherein the metal insert of each tongue element comprises a substantially flat portion ~~having a first part extending into the attachment portion and a second part extending into the stem portion of the tongue element,~~ and a limb which is arranged substantially at a right angle with respect to the said ~~first part~~ flat portion for stiffening the catch tooth.

4. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 1, wherein the body comprises a latching mechanism including locking means arranged to be moved in a perpendicular direction to the direction of insertion/ejection of the stem portions of the tongue elements into/out of the body from a coupled position, in which the said means engage the catch teeth of the tongue elements to prevent the latter from being ejected from the body, and a released position, in which the said means disengage from the catch tooth, thus allowing the ejection of the elements from the body.

5. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 4, wherein the latching mechanism further includes a control pushbutton arranged to be moved parallel to the direction of insertion/ejection of the stem portions of the tongue elements into/out of the body to control the movement of the locking means in the said released position.

6. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 5, wherein the said locking means comprises a locking rod and in that the control push-button comprises a ramp-like portion forming a slanted surface adapted to work together with the locking rod to prevent the latter from moving to the released position.

7. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 6, wherein the control push-button forms a projection adapted to retain the locking rod in the coupled position when both the tongue elements are inserted into body.

8. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 4, wherein the latching mechanism further includes a pair of slider elements, each associated with a respective tongue element, said slider elements being adapted to slide parallel to the direction of insertion/ejection of the stem portions of the tongue elements into/out of the body and are biased by a spring so as to react to the insertion and facilitate the ejection of the tongue elements.

9. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 8, wherein the said locking means comprise a locking rod and in that the said slider elements are arranged to prevent a locking rod from moving to a coupled position when both the tongue elements are not inserted into the body.

10. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 5, which further comprises identification means associated with the push-button for indicating to the user whether the device is in the coupled position or in the released position.

11. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 1, wherein the said tongue elements are provided with connecting members for ensuring the alignment of the tongue elements when these are inserted and anchored in the body.

12. (Previously Presented) The coupling device according to Claim 11, wherein the said connecting members comprise at least a projection formed by the one tongue element and a cavity provided in the other tongue element for receiving the respective projection.

13. (Previously Presented) A coupling device for restraining belts, particularly for children safety seats for motor-vehicles, comprising

a body adapted to be connected to at least one belt branch, and

a pair of tongue elements each adapted to be connected to a respective belt branch, wherein each tongue element includes an attachment portion for connection with the respective belt branch and a stem portion arranged to be received and locked in the body, said stem portion forming a catch tooth for locking the tongue element in the body,

wherein the body comprises a latching mechanism including locking means arranged to be moved in a perpendicular direction to the direction of insertion/ejection of the stem portions of the tongue elements into/out of the body from a coupled position, in which the said means engage the catch teeth of the tongue elements to prevent the latter from being ejected from the body, and a released position, in which the said means disengage from the catch tooth, thus allowing the ejection of the elements from the body, the latching mechanism further includes a control pushbutton arranged to be moved parallel to the direction of insertion/ejection of the stem portions of the tongue elements into/out of the body to control the movement of the locking means in the said released position.